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TWENTY-SEVENTH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
DIRECTORS  
OF  
JAMES MURRAY'S ROYAL ASYLUM  
FOR  
LUNATICS,  
NEAR  
PERTH.

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JUNE, 1854.

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# LIST OF OFFICE-BEARERS,

1854-55.

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## REPORT.



It is now the duty of the Directors to present the Twenty-Seventh Annual Report of the Institution.

It appears, by the last Annual Report, that there were then in the House 167 Patients—89 Males and 78 Females. Since then 36 Patients have been admitted—20 Males and 16 Females. 15 have been dismissed cured—5 Males and 10 Females; 6 Males have been removed by their friends or the Parochial authorities much improved; and 11 have died—6 Males and 5 Females. There now remain in the Asylum 171 Patients—92 Males and 79 Females. For the principal causes of death, reference is made to the Physician's Report, hereto subjoined.

During the past year several changes have taken place among the Officers of the Institution, in consequence of the resignation of the Medical Superintendent, of the House Steward, and of the Matron and Housekeeper. It was deemed advisable, in supplying the vacancies thus occasioned, to separate the offices of Matron and Housekeeper, heretofore combined, and to abolish the office of House Steward. The offices requiring to be supplied were, therefore, those of Medical Superintendent, Matron, and Housekeeper. The Directors think they may congratulate themselves on having secured for these offices persons eminently qualified for discharging the duties of the same. The gentleman appointed to the important situation of Medical Superintendent and House



Surgeon, enjoyed, before coming to this Institution, the advantage of experience in one of the principal Asylums in Scotland. The Matron had enjoyed the advantage of thorough insight into the practical working of one of the best Asylums in London, and the Housekeeper brought approved testimonials of her qualifications for the efficient discharge of her office. The short experience which the Directors have had of the services of these officials warrants them in cherishing confident expectations that they will materially contribute in ensuring that the Institution will be conducted with increased zeal, efficiency, and success.

The abolition of the office of House Steward, and the separation of the offices of Matron and Housekeeper, rendered it necessary to make suitable alterations on the existing By-Laws, so as to apportion to these their respective duties.

It will be observed that 14 Patients have been cured during the past year. 9 of these had been recently affected with their malady, and only 2 had been under its influence beyond 18 months. This goes to confirm what has been noticed in former Reports, that those cases which are brought under medical treatment in a well-regulated Asylum, recently after the disease appears, hold out, generally, good prospects of a speedy cure; whereas a delay in applying remedial measures lessens, to a great extent, the chances of recovery. The particulars given in the Medical Report regarding some of the cases of cure, under peculiarly disadvantageous circumstances, are well fitted to remove the morbid apprehensions of those who feel disposed to abandon themselves to despair when their friends become affected with insanity.

With lists of cures presented, from year to year, by our own and other Asylums, most cheering in point of numbers, it seems unreasonable, now, to represent insanity as incurable. But while seldom openly avowed, there can be no doubt that the incurability of this sad malady is still a secretly cherished belief among a considerable body of the community; and one of the principal reasons

for this it is not difficult to discover. As observed by a writer\* on this subject, "in addition to the obstacles to the progress of knowledge respecting other diseases, there has been this also in regard to insanity, that being considered as resulting from a direct exercise of Divine power, and not from the operation of the ordinary laws of nature, and thus associated with mysterious and supernatural phenomena, confessedly above our comprehension, inquiry has been discouraged at the very threshold by the plea of presumption, or, at least, of fruitless labour. To this superstition we may look as the parent of many of the false and absurd notions that have prevailed relative to this disease, and especially of the reckless and inhuman treatment once universally bestowed on its unfortunate subjects."

But many who have abandoned the views just adverted to, still cling tenaciously to the opinion that the insane can be best cared for by their friends, at home, rather than by strangers in an Asylum. That there are cases where, under medical treatment, the insane may be advantageously allowed to remain with their family or friends cannot be denied. Where the delirium is but partial and temporary; where the Patient expresses no repugnance for his home or family; where the disease is unconnected with, and independent of, his domestic habits; where there do not exist within his family any causes of irritation, either real or imaginary; where the property or life of the Patient, or of his family, are not hazarded, and if he submit to proper treatment,—in all such cases seclusion may be useful, but it is not indispensable. But, how rarely is it that the disease is not, in some way or other, associated with home and domestic ties, so as to render a separation unnecessary? As a general rule, all writers seem to agree in regarding seclusion from friends as a leading feature in the management of the insane. Pinel considered separation from friends and former associates as indispensable. Willis, who acquired so high a character for his successful treatment of King George the Third's case,

\* Ray's Medical Jurisprudence of Insanity.



changed the very furniture, as well as the servants of that personage. Esquirol, who is an advocate for the necessity and utility of seclusion, adduces several cases of individuals who recovered their reason on leaving their own homes, and lost it again when they returned; and such cases are of constant occurrence in this, and other Asylums. These considerations ought to satisfy the friends of the insane that they consult their best interests by securing for them, as early as possible, the advantages of seclusion and retirement, in most cases only temporary, of an Asylum.

It is well known that insanity belongs almost exclusively to civilized nations. In civilized life, as has been remarked, men may be said to beat out or expand their brains, and thus expose a more extended surface to the action of external causes than those who are actuated only by the ordinary excitements of their natural wants. In accordance with the law referred to, it has generally been found that seasons of great public and social changes or catastrophes have been fruitful in swelling the ranks of the insane. How far the existing war shall operate in this way must depend, of course, to a great extent upon those issues which no human mind can foresee. There is, at all events, cause for thankfulness that in this community we are provided, by the munificent liberality of a private citizen, with the means of cure, by possessing an Institution which has been blessed in the restoration of not a few to the use of a sound mind.

The Directors of this Institution have uniformly endeavoured to do everything in their power to secure for it all the advantages which modern improvement has suggested in the treatment of the insane. They believe they are only carrying out the wishes of the benevolent founder of the Institution, by making the profits flowing into its revenue altogether secondary and subordinate to the paramount object of its permanent efficiency and success. In fact, the realizing of profit, beyond what is necessary for defraying the expenses of carrying on the Institution and upholding the Buildings, is no object of the Directors; and in



this respect they occupy a proud and independent position compared with many Asylums. Accordingly, from time to time, the Medical Officers have been authorized to visit the more celebrated Asylums in England, and on the Continent, so as to gather the benefit of their experience; and when improvements have been observed, no time has been lost, or money spared, to have them introduced into this Asylum, so that it may be kept fully equal to kindred institutions throughout the country.

The Directors would avail themselves of the present opportunity of intimating that they are in a situation to receive a few First Class Patients, especially such as may require separate apartments with private attendants, for which the most commodious and comfortable accommodation can be provided, and for which this Asylum is peculiarly eligible. There is no Institution in the kingdom that can possess greater advantages than the present for Patients of this class. While on an equal footing with them, in other respects, the present Asylum, from the salubrity of its situation, and the extraordinary richness and variety of its scenery, embracing as it does the lofty and commanding Grampians and other mountains;—the Tay carrying its mountain torrents to the ocean, and a wide campaign country, covered at intervals with beautiful plantations, moor-land, and cultivated fields, altogether so peculiarly fitted to arrest attention, and to soften and sooth the irritation of a distempered mind,—may safely be said to stand unrivalled.

The advantages of interesting scenery to the insane are well known; operating as it does most powerfully and beneficially on their sensitive natures. This is strikingly illustrated in the case of the celebrated Robert Hall, whose noble mind lost its equilibrium more than once. When residing at Cambridge, prior to his first attack, he complained most bitterly of the scenery:—“’Tis a dismally flat country, Sir, dismally flat,” said he to a friend. A friend took him out for a morning ride, and showed him the improvements by means of new enclosures,—“True,” said he, “but there is that odious flatness, that insipid sameness of scenery,

all around there is no variety—no beauty.” On another occasion a gentleman reminded him that there were some trees on the way to a village about a mile from Cambridge. Mr Hall replied,—“ Yes, Sir, I recollect—willows, I believe, Sir,—nature hanging out signals of distress, Sir.” Hall was equally disappointed with the river Cam, though poets had sung of its “ sweetly flowing stream.” He remarked to a friend,—“ The Don is a *river*, Sir, and the Severn is a *river*, but not even a poet would so designate *the Cam*, unless by an obvious figure he termed it the *sleeping river*.” Such scenery stands out in striking contrast with that already described as enjoyed by this Asylum.

During the past year nothing has occurred to interfere with the efficient management of the Institution. The different Officers have been assiduous in the discharge of their onerous and responsible duties, for which they merit the approbation of the Directors. For a variety of statistics, and other interesting details connected with the Institution, reference is made to the Report of the Physician.

In conclusion, the Directors congratulate themselves and the community that the Institution has been enabled, for so many years, to command the services of noblemen and gentlemen in the town and county of Perth, who have, with so much advantage, given the benefit of their judgment and experience in its management, and exerted their influence for its success and welfare ; and they trust that, under similar management, it may, through the Divine blessing, continue, as heretofore, to confer important benefits on the community.

## APPENDIX.

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### THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEDICAL REPORT

OF

*James Murray's Royal Asylum for Lunatics,*

PRESENTED TO THE DIRECTORS AT THE MEETING HELD  
AT THE ASYLUM IN JUNE.

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It has again become the duty of the Medical Officers to lay before you the Annual Report of the Asylum for the year just elapsed. And we have much pleasure in being able to report its continued prosperity ; and that during this period, we believe, it has afforded alleviation and comparative comfort to the miseries of many afflicted sufferers, and has been, under the Divine blessing, the means of again restoring not a few of these to their friends and society. We have to record the occurrence of no accident amongst the inmates, nor any event of an untoward character, throughout the year. No epidemic has visited the Institution ; the health of the inmates has been above the average ; diarrhœa, or dysentery, have rarely been seen ; and with the exception of some cases of long standing, which have run their usual course, and terminated in death, nothing prejudicial can be stated.



At the close of the past year there remained in the Asylum 167 patients, of whom 89 were males and 78 females : there have since been admitted 36 cases—20 males and 16 females : 15 have been dismissed *cured*—5 males and 10 females : 6 males have been removed by their friends or the parochial authorities much improved : 2 at least of which number, had they been allowed to remain for a short period to complete their convalescence, which was then fairly established, would have appeared amongst the list of those cured : 11 have died—6 males and 5 females.

Of the 15 patients dismissed cured, 9 were of recent occurrence, and only 2 had extended beyond 18 months. One, a case of recurrent mania, of 6 years' duration, had remained well and free from any attack during several periods of its accustomed visitation. Her conduct had been decorous, and her natural disposition and intelligence seemed to have resumed their sway. Since her discharge—now some months ago—she has continued well, and is actively employed in maintaining herself by her own industry. The other, a case of severe epilepsy, combined with considerable derangement of the intellectual faculties, and attended with paroxysms of irritability and violence, had gradually become amended, the seizures less grave and frequent, and finally seemed to be marked with no disturbance of the powers of the mind. Though recoveries in cases of this kind are somewhat rare, especially where they have extended over such a lengthened period, still it is gratifying to know that such do occasionally take place, and they serve to encourage us to continue our exertions even when hope almost appears vain. It is, however, to be borne in mind, that cases of this description are peculiarly liable to suffer relapses. Another of the cases recorded as cured, was a man deaf and dumb, by trade a weaver. Such cases are said to be seldom benefited, and hence the interest attaching to it. Naturally, he was most industrious, and of good moral principles, and had received a



fair education for one in his station of life. Some fellow-craftsmen knowing he had amassed some savings, enticed him into their society, introduced him to habits of intemperance, and finally succeeded in cheating him of his whole earnings. He soon found, when their purpose had been attained, that he was avoided by the party. Remorse seized him for his imprudence and weakness, his temper became cross, he was impatient and restless, presently he avoided his friends, sought solitude, and finally became furious and dangerous to be approached. He destroyed every thing on which he could lay his hands, and the safety of the other members of his family demanded he should be sent to an Asylum. Under treatment he gradually became manageable, the delusions, of which he had many, vanished, his affections gradually returned; he now wrote his friends asking their forgiveness; he began to work, and to make himself useful and agreeable, and left this, after a ten months' residence, quite well. He has since visited the Institution, and seemed thankful he had been sent here.

One of the cases alluded to as leaving prematurely, presented on his admission many of the psychological features observed in the early stages of general paralysis. Inordinate mental activity marked his case. A continuous series of wild speculations was expounded, by which fortunes greater than those of Cræsus might be attained; the variety of feeling displayed in the course of a short interview was excessive. One moment he was in tears, and beseeching for some trifling request; the next, he believed himself possessed of immense wealth and power, and capable of subduing the world—single-handed. He at times fancied himself to be a Divinity. His physical strength was much reduced by the course of dissipation, and the excitement of the life he had led previous to his admission. There was observed some want of power in controlling his muscular motions, and his utterance was perceptibly indistinct. As he gained strength, and his general health improved, his delusions vanished, and

he became calm and rational. He now occupied himself incessantly in arranging for his return to business, and his friends unfortunately yielded, and took him out before a sufficient period of probation had been passed, and it is much to be feared that he may again return to his former practices on the occurrence of any excitement, whereby his disease will again be brought to light. Cases of this description require a longer period of residence in an Asylum after being seemingly restored, than most others. The experience of all engaged in following this branch of practice, shows how frequently relapses occur, for preventing which nothing can be done but the retaining the patient for such a length of time under the discipline of an Asylum, as may tend to bring the person into new habits, and to provoke to greater steadiness of purpose, and a less degree of self confidence, which most of these possess. Another of the cases in this list presented a complication of extensive disease of the heart with paralysis. He had been paralytic for some years ; his speech was much affected. Some work which had been done for him dissatisfied him, and he fell into a violent rage, which passed into a state of furious mania, during which his wife and family were particular objects of his aversion and violence. His restlessness was extreme, and the assistance of several men were requisite to prevent his leaving his house at midnight to transact some business. Words now altogether failed him, and he could not express a single thought, although he seemed constantly anxious to speak. He remained for some weeks in the Asylum, when he became calm ; the disturbance of the circulation, which had been much increased by the excitement, was materially reduced ; his family visited him without producing any ill effects ; and he was finally removed home, but still subject to the paralytic symptoms, although those of the mania seemed to have left him. This patient has since died, but no return of the mania was observed prior to this event.



The cases average 43·7 per cent. calculated upon the admissions, and 7 per cent. on the total number under treatment during the year.

Almost the whole of the deaths have occurred in cases of long standing ; one only, to be presently mentioned, having taken place in a recent case. The diseases of all were such as are met with in cases of chronic insanity. Exhaustion of the vital powers, and loss of tone in the nervous system, probably more from their mental than their physical condition, were the chief causes of their occurrence. One died after a protracted series of epileptic fits, another from ulceration of the intestines, with disease of the liver ; a third from disease of the kidneys and urinary organs, the result of a mutilation committed upon himself some years ago. To old age and general decay the fatal termination of three cases is due. Two died from chronic inflammatory affections of the lungs, and two from debility and colliquative diarrhoea. The last case survived his admission into the Asylum (at which time he was much exhausted) only one week. He was brought in labouring under extensive cellular inflammation of both upper and lower extremities, in consequence of the severity of the restraint to which he had been subjected. This, conjoined to an attack of acute mania of considerable violence, soon utterly prostrated his strength, and the patient rapidly sank and died. The ages of three of the above cases ranged between 68 and 70. Two had resided 18 years in the Asylum ; two 14 years ; one 8 years ; one 7 years ; two 6 years ; one about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years ; one 1 year ; and the last 1 week.

The deaths average 5·5 per cent. upon the number treated during the year. In connection with the mortality, it may here be remarked, that this, in future years, will probably be much increased, and would be so certainly were any epidemic to occur in the Institution. The number of incurable cases have gradually been increasing ; and when it is stated that, in not above 25 presently resident, is there a fair prospect of recovery, it will be evi-

dent how relief only can be obtained by the gradual dying out of this class—many of whom, at the present date, have been long resident, and lunatic for a series of years.

Of the cases admitted during the past year, two were so advanced as to give only a very remote chance of recovery (being of over twelve months' duration). In several of these the disease had existed for many years; and 15 of them, in addition, had suffered from previous attacks, thus reducing still further their prospect of recovery. Of the whole number, 9 had previously been inmates of this Asylum, 4 of whom had been removed uncured, and have now returned in a deteriorated condition.

The Medical Officers have still great reason to deplore, as has frequently been done in the Reports of former years, that the cases which have been sent to the Asylum have been kept at home by their guardians till their disease has become so confirmed as to destroy any reasonable hope of their cure. We have reason to think that this system prevails in many cases through the ignorance of the friends, and in others from their ill-judged affection. But in the case of patients sent in by the Parochial authorities, it is lamentable to report that this same practice has not been altogether superseded by the one recommended by law.

Table II. gives the form of mental disease of those admitted.

Hereditary predisposition was ascertained to exist in 10 of the cases; 16 of them had suffered from previous attacks of insanity; dissipation was said to be the exciting cause in 5 cases; 2 were said to have resulted from vicious habits; 1 was preceded by an attack of acute inflammation of the lungs; 1 had received a severe injury of the head; in 2 over-exertion in maintaining themselves and families was ascribed as the cause; epilepsy, of some years' standing, preceded the attack in 1; uterine disease, and much consequent suffering, existed in 2 cases; in 1 the attack supervened in a case of paralysis, labouring under disease of the heart; the gouty diathesis was present in 1, and an attack of acute mania followed its accession; 2 were consequent on child-



birth; and in 1 there was ill health and debility long present before mental alienation was observed.

A fright received during the childhood of a scrofulous subject was said to have occasioned the illness of one; one was ascribed to fear during the prevalence of cholera; two to some disappointment in their prospects, subsequent to the engaging of their affections; three to grief and the trials consequent upon the death of relatives; one to distorted views on religious subjects and fanaticism; one to anxiety concerning the result of a law suit, which was entered upon for gaining a large fortune left unexpectedly by an unknown relative; and in two it was ascribed to domestic quarrels and the blighting influence of poverty.

The subject of the origin of insanity is one of the greatest importance. When its causes have been more fully investigated, and the relation which they bear to that disease, have been more clearly demonstrated, it is hoped that much may then be done for diminishing its frequency. The physical causes in our admissions appear as usual to have induced a larger proportion of attacks than those purely moral, which must act by producing some physical change in the nervous masses prior to the appearance of the derangement of the mind. Pathology has not hitherto pointed out the exact nature of the changes which do occur in the nervous centres, but a yearly increasing number of those engaged in the practice of psychological medicine, and many of its present most distinguished practitioners agree that such changes do exist. An important matter is at present attracting attention, and which, if borne out by further researches, tends to confirm these views of the existence of some altered condition of the cerebral substance, in contradistinction to the theory of the purely functional character of insanity. We refer to the marked increase in the sp. gr. of the grey and white substance of the brain of the insane, compared with that obtaining amongst those dying from other causes, and unaffected with insanity or disease of this organ. If extended observations on this point are found agree-

ing with those recorded above, it is not unreasonable to expect that this will only be the first stage of the inquiry, and that the character of the changes inducing this increase of weight may be ultimately recognised, and the circumstances influencing, promoting, or retarding its occurrence made known for the benefit of mankind.

A suicidal impulse existed in ten of the cases admitted, and in two of these a similar tendency had been present in other members of their families when insane. No peculiarity is more certainly transmitted from generation to generation than this. At the present moment we have in the Asylum several instances of persons, in whom this tendency strongly exists, whose parents had endeavoured or succeeded to effect this purpose.

The same combination of moral and physical treatment is still pursued in this Asylum. In recent cases constant watchfulness is always demanded, and frequent recourse to medical treatment is requisite ; for but few, if any cases, are admitted not requiring treatment for some physical derangement, and these, with the removal of existing complications, and the presence of any sources of irritation, are the earliest objects of our attention. In the chronic cases moral agencies come to play a more important part. Attention to the state of the general health is necessary in every case, and frequently restoration of the functions of the mind accompanies the improvement of the bodily health. Many cases recover under the use of a generous diet, which an allowance of some fermented drink often materially assists. In acute cases the greatest benefit continues to be derived from the use of prolonged warm baths, whose effect is much aided by the simultaneous application of cold to the head by means of a gentle stream of water. The persevering use of these means have, in some cases, been very successful, and even sufficient to cut short the attack. Excitement and restlessness are removed or diminished, the functions of the various excretory systems are thereby promoted, sleep is often obtained, and the strength is husbanded, and not reduced, as is



the case when other remedies for this purpose are had recourse to.

The employment of the inmates have been sedulously carried out ; above three-fourths of the whole inmates are daily engaged in some active occupation. The care of the grounds, and the cultivation of the garden, afford healthy and cheerful exercise to most of the male patients ; while the more imbecile and fatuous are engaged at the pumps in raising water for the supply of the house. Many of them are of the utmost service in assisting the officers and attendants in their various departments, which berths are anxiously sought after as affording more freedom, and a greater amount of indulgence, when good conduct accompanies their services. Some are employed at carpentering or shoemaking, some at necessary repairs or in white-washing, &c. ; others have their talents devoted to the care of poultry, cattle, or pigs. Each one is devoted to his own sphere, and would look on a discontinuance from, or a change of his duties, as the greatest misfortune which could befall him. In engaging beginners for the first time the taste of the individual is consulted as much as is consistent with his condition and safety, and suggestions are thrown out, rather than orders given, which are not unfrequently adopted as their own conceptions, and gratefully accepted. Nothing is of greater service, both to their health of body and mind, than that each patient, in a suitable condition, be daily employed for some hours—a healthy mental exercise is thus afforded, and a degree of thought and self-control are demanded, to the total or partial exclusion of the topics of their derangement, which would otherwise engage their attention and fill their minds ; the mischief and quarrels in which many would indulge are prevented, and the irritation is avoided, which would be consequent upon the hourly intercourse of numbers of persons of such varied disposition, character, and habits, who have no object before them sufficient to engage their thoughts, or dispel their delusions. Daily experience has abundantly shown that those who are morbidly

active and restless, are often much benefited by regular occupation—that their health improves, their rest at night is less disturbed, and their cure much promoted. *For the Females*, the laundry, wash-house, and kitchen, afford abundant active employment to the more robust and restless, while others prefer sewing, spinning, knitting, or fancy work. It is not unfrequent to hear patients recovering from a paroxysm of excitement, ask their attendant for something to do ; they often feel they cannot restrain their activity, but must have their hands occupied, and the rapidity with which they work is often a sure index of the state of mind of the person at the time.

A change having occurred in the distribution of the duties of the Asylum, whereby a housekeeper now directs the entire domestic economy of the establishment, the whole time of the matron is left free to be devoted to the care and benefit of the female patients. Under this arrangement several improvements have been adopted ; a certain amount of useful conversation, and of cheerful society, is always to be enjoyed, and excursions into the surrounding country are frequently had recourse to. The patients are thus seldom left to the charge of the attendants alone, and they feel themselves objects of greater concern ; and are encouraged, both by example and advice, to follow out every means thought likely to prove of advantage to them. It can readily be imagined how much a friend is prized in the naturally barren soil of an Asylum. Females experience this loss much more than males, who, from being more actively engaged, and much in the open air, have less time to devote to this source of enjoyment. Several of the patients have already expressed themselves as being benefited, and more at home, since the change has come into operation. A work-room has been established, which has been productive of much benefit to the inmates. It is under the charge of one of the attendants, and is frequently visited by the matron. The work being all executed under the eye of a person having for the time nothing else to attract her



attention, is better done, mistakes are prevented, and loss of materials from hiding or destruction is prevented. Most are very industrious ; and it is to be hoped that many convalescent patients may be much improved, and acquire additional means of industry from the practice which they will here enjoy for some time before leaving the Asylum. The disturbances often caused by other cases not sufficiently restored to be here employed, and which would interfere with regularity in their day-rooms, are thus avoided, and to those who enjoy this privilege, a quiet retreat is secured for several hours from all interference and turmoil. Those left behind have the undivided attention of their attendants, and can be better managed, while the ventilation of the galleries is much improved by the large number of cases daily drawn from them.

While so much is done for the employment of the great proportion of our inmates, the rest are not left unattended to. Many are diligent readers ; while various papers, and a selection of magazines, occupy the attention of some, others devote themselves to some special study. Once a-week the patients of both sexes meet for dancing. The customs of an evening party are observed ; the entire *materiel* of the entertainment is afforded by the patients, officers, or attendants. Some come to sing, more to dance, some to play on the piano or violin, and not a few to enjoy the scene. Evening parties are of weekly occurrence for the more orderly, and those capable of conducting themselves ; while at intervals a general entertainment is afforded to the whole inmates.

A weekly singing class has been set in operation for some time, and the progress made in sacred music has more than repaid the small trouble which its establishment entailed. Many of the admirers of the former re-unions are never found present here, but others are diligent in their attendance and practice who by no chance ever appear at such light entertainments as the previous. Saturday afternoon is devoted to a cricket match, when much good-feeling and friendly rivalry is excited. Bowls and quoits are in daily use during the summer. The bagatelle practice is exten-

sively used during the winter, while some more advanced in life prefer a quiet rubber of whist to any other source of amusement. Parties are frequently formed and sent into the country around under charge of an attendant. These visit many of the more beautiful spots, in which the neighbourhood of Perth abounds, and always conduct themselves with perfect propriety.

Religious services continue to be regularly performed by the chaplain, both during the week and on the Sabbath. A large and attentive congregation always are present. Those sick and confined to bed are frequently visited and conversed with, and many others, whose cases admit of such intercourse, are frequently seen for conversation, and it is thought that much good results from these ministrations.

In conclusion, it may be stated, that as much as possible is done to comfort and amuse the minds of all—to distract their attention from objects of irritation—to disarm their suspicion, and by uniform kindness and attention to convince them that all are working for their good; and in how many cases success is obtained we have great reason to be thankful.

TABLE I.  
GENERAL RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Patients admitted from 1827 to 1853 :—	455	448	903
	Males.	Females	Total.
Of these were dismissed cured, -	169	217	386
Removed Improved, - - - -	49	51	100
Do. Unimproved, - - - -	51	42	93
Died, - - - -	97	60	157
Total, - - - -	366	370	736
	366	370	736
Number of Patients remaining June 1853, - - - -	89	78	167
Admitted during the year from June 1853 to June 1854,	20	16	36
Total under Treatment from 1853 to 1854, - - - -	109	94	203
	Males.	Females	Total.
Of whom were dismissed cured, -	5	10	15
Removed improved, - - - -	6	0	6
Died, - - - -	6	5	11
	17	15	32
	17	15	32
Remaining in Asylum June 1854, - - - -	92	79	171

TABLE II.

SHOWING THE FORM OF MENTAL DISEASE IN THOSE ADMITTED.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Mania, Acute, - - - -	5	3	8
„ Chronic, - - - -	2	0	2
„ with Epilepsy, - - - -	0	1	1
„ „ Paralysis, - - - -	1	0	1
„ Puerperal, - - - -	0	2	2
Dementia, - - - -	3	3	6
Monomania, - - - -	5	5	10
Melancholia, - - - -	4	2	6
	20	16	36

